

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of Indian nationals who have informed the Central Government of their intention to change their citizenship?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) There is no requirement under the provisions of Indian Citizenship Act, 1955 for Indian nationals to inform Government of India about their disowning Indian citizenship while seeking citizenship of another country.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Konar Canal Project of Bihar

4655. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the work of the Konar Canal Project of Bihar which commenced in 1978 is still incomplete;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the delay;
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to complete it expeditiously; and
- (d) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes Sir,

(b) to (d) Spillover cost into the Eighth Plan was Rs. 152.79 crores, whereas Eighth Plan approved outlay is only Rs. 30 crores. Approved/Proposed outlay for 1992-93 to 1995-96 is Rs. 13.49 crores only. Irrigation is a State subject. Projects are planned, funded and implemented by the State Government from their own resources. The completion of the project will depend upon the priority attached to it by the State Government.

[*English*]

Irrigation Rates

4656. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government propose to rationalise the irrigation rates in the country;
- (b) whether it is a fact that some State Governments are not able to bear the cost of the operations and maintenance of the irrigation projects; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and steps taken to assist those State Governments in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (c) Irrigation being a

State subject, it is for the State Governments to act on the rationalising of the irrigation water rates. No assistance is provided by the Central Government to any State to meet the cost of maintenance of irrigation projects. Planning Commission had set up a Committee on Pricing of Irrigation Water in October, 1991 under the Chairmanship of Dr. A. Vaidyanathan former Member, Planning Commission to examine various aspects of water pricing in the country. The Committee in its report submitted in September, 1992 has made important suggestions to rationalise the irrigation water rates and thereby reduce the gap between revenue realised through irrigation and related charges and the cost of realised through irrigation and related charges and the cost of operation and maintenance of irrigation projects. The recommendations of the Vaidyanathan Committee were further studied by the Group of officers set up by the Planning Commission in October, 1992. The Group in its report of December, 1994, recommended, inter-alia, that the irrigation water rates should cover the full annual operation and maintenance cost in phases in next 5 years period. The recommendations of the Group alongwith the report of the Vaidyanathan Committee have been sent by the Planning Commission to all the States for necessary action.

Recognition to Nurses Union

4657. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Nurses Union in All India Institute of Medical Sciences is a recognised body;
- (b) if so, since when and if not, why;
- (c) whether such Union was denied recognition since some years;
- (d) if so, since when and the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the union has requested for recognition and whether some conditions have been stated by the management to accord recognition;
- (f) if so, what were the conditions; and
- (g) the present position of the Union and whether the management recognises any Union?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Nurses Union was recognised on 3.4.92 for a period of two years. Recognition was not extended further due to delay in fulfillment of certain conditions under CCS (RSA) Rules, 1993 by the Nurses Union.

(c) and (d) As the Nurses Union did not comply with the requisite conditions as laid down and intimated to them under CCS (RSA) Rules, 1993 consequently, the recognition was not extended beyond 2.4.94.

(e) to (g) Yes, please. The rules provide that the Service Association shall abide by and comply with all the provisions of its constitute by-law. The matter is under consideration for grant of recognition.

International AIDS Conference

4658. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsmitem captioned "Tech-fix approach to AIDS control is unaffordable" appearing in 'The Times of India' on July 31, 1996;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether India had participated in the Eleventh International AIDS Conference, which concluded recently in Vancouver, Canada;

(d) if so, the broad features of the global over-view of HIV's onward March, presented at the conference with particular reference to India;

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(f) the steps being taken to help traditional Ayurvedic and other Indian medicines to come up to the internationally accepted standard of trials and scientific protocols, in fighting the deadly disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The report refers to the proceedings of an International Conference on AIDS held at Vancouver, Canada. India was represented at the Conference at which inter-alia the extent of the AIDS problem, new therapies, location specific problems as well as some success stories were discussed. It was also indicated that the spread of AIDS is mostly in developing countries and India has the largest number of infected cases in the world.

(e) The basis of the statement has been taken up with the UN-AIDS Organisation for clarification.

(f) Research work with definite and scientific protocol approved by ICMR is going on to find a cure for AIDS through Scientific Clinical trials on various drugs in Homoeopathy and Ayurvedic Systems of Medicine.

Government is providing technical and financial support to such research projects.

Funds to Bihar Under C.R.F.

4659. SHRI GIRDHARI YADAV : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated from the Central Road Fund to Bihar during 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(b) whether any amount is still outstanding out of the above;

(c) if so, the details of the last two years and current year in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the balance amount is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) The amount allocated to Bihar, out of Central Road Fund, during 1994-95 and 1995-96 is given below:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Amount
1994-95	166.00
1995-96	25.00

(b) to (d) The allocation is made on lumpsum basis depending upon tentative accruals, approved schemes and availability of funds, in addition to demands from States. The amount for the year 1996-97 will be released, after the Demands for Grants are passed by the Parliament

Hepatitis-B Virus

4660. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the growing incidents of infection caused by Hepatitis-B virus in India;

(b) if so, whether the Government have assessed the magnitude of the spread of the disease;

(c) whether immunisation against this disease, as recommended by World Health Organisation, is carried out compulsorily in the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) Published studies and the